

The now regular Wednesday night online tournament seems to be on the decline as only 9 players entered with the tournament having an aptly named sub-title Wednesday Night is full of Woe. However, a new face had ventured into the arena in the name of Peter Cusick from Grantham, a familiar name in county circles before lockdown but new to the online scene.

Coming into the tournament as top seed and favourite he was more than equal to all comers winning each of his five matches. Second place was taken by David Bale from Louth on 3.5 points and the two met in round 1 with the opening moves, with Peter as white, following the queen's gambit 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. c4 c6 4. Qc2 e6 5. cxd5 exd5 with Peter electing to exchange pawns on d5 6. Nc3 Be7 7. Bg5 g6 8. e3 Bf5 9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. Qxd3 Nbd7 11. 0-0 0-0 and with both players castling honours are still even.

Play continued 12. Rab1 a5 13. Rfc1 Re8 14. h3 Ne4 and black advances his knight to take us into an interesting middle game 15. Bxe7 Qxe7 16. Qc2 Nd6 17. Na4 Kg7 18. Nc5 Nb6 19. Ne5 Nbc4 20. Nxb4 Nxb4 21. Qc3 Nd6 22. a3 Ne4 23. Nxe4 Qxe4 and with all the bishops and knights off the board the queens and rooks would lock horns 24. b4 axb4 25. axb4 Ra2 26. b5 Rc8 27. Qb3 Rca8 and black's rooks now control the a-file but this has given Peter an opportunity (see diagram) - can you see it?

Peter simply played 28. bxc6 bxc6 29. Rxc6 winning the pawn R8a3 30. Qb8 Ra8 31. Qe5+ Qxe5 32. dxe5 forcing an exchange of queens Re8 33. f4 f6 and realising that he would lose a second pawn black resigned.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Now open after lockdown. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

